



NEWS RELEASE

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Calvin A. Hiner Jr., Recognized as *Grassroots Champion*

May 16, 2007– The American Hospital Association (AHA), in partnership with the Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) awarded Calvin A. Hiner Jr., Administrator, Tri-County Hospital, the Partnership for Action *Grassroots Champion Award*. As a 2007 Grassroots Champion Calvin Hiner is being recognized for his exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community activity in support of a hospital's mission.

The Partnership for Action *Grassroots Champion Award* was created to recognize those hospital leaders who most effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect the hospital's vital role in the community, who have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support for the hospital, and is a tireless advocate for the hospital and its patients.

“Your leadership and dedication to promoting the mission of hospitals has added a strong voice on a local and national level,” said Rich Umbdenstock, president, American Hospital Association. “The compassion and hard work you have demonstrated has made a difference for your patients and your community and has earned you this special recognition.”

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“Cal Hiner is an outstanding health care leader, both in his role as Administrator of Tri-County Hospital in Lexington, and as Chairman of the Board of the Nebraska Hospital Association,” Nebraska Hospital Association President Laura J. Redoutey stated. In addition, Cal serves as Chairman of Government Affairs for the Lexington Chamber of Commerce and is a strong advocate for protecting health care services at the local, state and federal levels. He has worked closely with the NHA to voice his support for fair Medicaid funding as the state legislature pursued Medicaid reform.

Cal Hiner has also visited with Nebraska’s federal delegates to change Medicare regulations, supporting reasonable payment for certified registered nurse anesthetist stand-by costs. “In all of his activities, Cal is respected as a persuasive champion for high-quality health care in Nebraska,” Ms. Redoutey said.

The Grassroots Champion award is presented annually to one individual from each state. Winners are chosen by their representative state association and recognized at a special Breakfast of *Grassroots Champions* at the AHA Annual Membership Meeting. Calvin Hiner is one of 50 individuals honored this year.

About the AHA

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 37,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the AHA Web site at www.aha.org.

About the NHA

The Nebraska Hospital Association is a statewide trade association representing Nebraska's hospitals and health systems. The NHA has been representing and supporting the needs of Nebraska’s rural and urban hospitals since 1927. Today, NHA supports and encourages its members in developing various health care delivery systems geared toward improving the health and well-being of Nebraska’s

communities. NHA works closely with its membership to develop legislative and communication programs, prepare policy analysis, sponsor educational programs, prepare data analysis, assist with community health development and provide information and special services to our members. For more information visit the NHA Web site at www.nhanet.org

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